

mixed feelings about this bill. I serve on the Ag and Environment Committee. There were a lot of people that testified for the bill. There is a lot of people that testified against the bill. As I recall it, the testimony showed that Oregon has a bill like this. They have a bottle bill, and if I recall correctly, I believe that they have cleaned up only 11% of their litter over the past four years. In comparison, the State of Washington has a comprehensive litter bill and testimony there showed that they have cleaned up 66% of their litter in the past three years. A lot of them here on the floor say, well, this is at least a start and it is true. It is a start but I think it is a very, very expensive start. I think that there are people that are going to lose their jobs and, therefore, I think that we need a more comprehensive litter bill. I feel that we need an educational program that will teach the people how our litter should be cleaned up. I think we need to get the schools involved. I think we need to get many of the other organizations involved and, perhaps, maybe we need a stiffer penalty for littering and maybe we need to get the citizens involved, and by this, I mean that if a person is picked up for littering, well maybe that part of the fine should go to the citizen that reported it. The poster that Senator Simon sent around yesterday I thought was very informative. It proves to us that not all bottles or cans are covered in this particular bill. I believe that if we pass this bill we will just be solving part of our problem and so, therefore, I would support a more comprehensive litter bill, and in this way, we could truly clean up the litter in Nebraska.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Well, Mr. President, I would like to start by saying I agree with everything Senator Fowler and Senator Bereuter and Senator Dworak said and then go on from there to say that really doesn't matter because we ain't got the votes, and it is who has got the votes in this game that counts. And so I think we ought to look at the issue a little broader than maybe we have at this point. Big Frank has the votes to kill, and if we kill the bill, we haven't solved anything. We still have the litter problem. We still have to face it in future legislative sessions. We still have confusion as to where we go on the ballot or if we go or what happens. Everybody says, well, this isn't the right answer. They want a different answer. I have offered you what I think is a pretty reasonable amendment up there that will be passed out here in the next ten, fifteen minutes and it addresses, I think, a lot of the things that Senator Hefner raised, for example, and others. It is a comprehensive litter bill that deals with all litter. It is four pages long. It would involve school students in picking up litter. They would be paid for it and that certainly is an educational program to young people if they get paid for cleaning up litter. It would be under the control of the counties and municipalities. The funding would come from the state through this tax. If you are really serious about wanting to do something on litter, I suggest, rather than kill the bill, you at least consider strongly going in this direction. Now to get back to fundamentals of the question, we don't have the votes to save the bill but we, working the other, may have the votes with a little cooperation from everybody to at least address the litter problem. So before you kill it, give it a second thought.